

## **REMARKS**

### **I. THE INFORMALITIES HAVE BEEN CORRECTED**

The Examiner objected to Claims 1-20 because he identified certain informalities in claims. The Applicant has made amendments to the claims that should overcome the objections based on these informalities.

### **II. CLAIMS 1 AND 2, AS AMENDED, ARE NOT ANTICIPATED**

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Craft. The Applicant does agree with, or acquiesce to, the Examiner's interpretation of Craft, but the Examiner has indicated that Claim 4 would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 4, and Claim 4 has been withdrawn. It is therefore believed that amended Claim 1 is allowable. Claim 2 depends from Claim 1, and as such, it is also believed to be allowable. For these reasons, the Applicant requests allowance of Claims 1 and 2.

### **III. CLAIMS 3 AND 4-14 ARE ALLOWABLE**

Because Examiner indicated (p. 7, Office Action) that Claims 3 and 5-14 contain allowable subject matter if amended to overcome the objections, these amended claims are believed to be allowable. As such, allowance of Claims 3 and 5-14 is requested.

### **IV. AMENDED CLAIMS 15-20 ARE SUPPORTED BY THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION**

The Examiner rejected Claims 15 as lacking written support for "higher level" processing for a slow-path router to slow-path router transmission. Specifically, the Examiner stated the claimed phrase:

“forwarding the information packet to an output on the slow-path router for transmission onto any other slow-path routers on the network if the slow path identifier value indicates the need for high level processing by said slow path routers” is not described or supported by the specification.

*Page 6, Office Action.* The Examiner refers the Applicant to pages 18-19 of the Specification, and states that “the specification does not describe that slow-path routers forward packets to slow-path routers for further examination.” *Id.*

The Examiner is simply mistaken. The Examiner’s attention is directed to the Figure 5 description on pages 21-24 of the Specification, with particular focus on routers 420 and 460. Both 420 and 460 are slow-path routers as discussed on these pages of the specification, and router 420 processes the information packet using higher-level processing and increased examination because the bitmap flags identify the packet as requiring that higher-level processing. *See ¶ 1, pg. 23 of Specification.* After the higher-level processing is completed on the slow-path router 420, the packet is transferred to slow-path router 460, which “also requires slow-path processing” and increased examination using the higher-level processing. *See ¶ 2, pg. 23 of Specification.* The specification clearly indicates that the information packet is forwarded to the signal processor on R6 460 from router 420 for use as defined by the bitmap flags, which is a transmission from a slow-path router to a slow-path router as claimed in Claim 15.

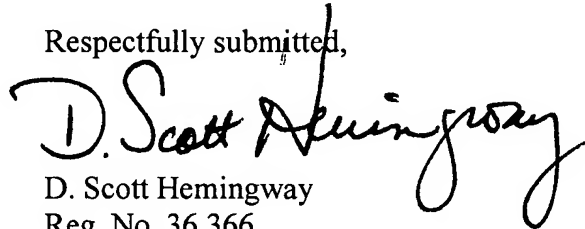
Page 24, first full paragraph clearly states that “slow-path routing is selectively conducted on only routers R2 420 and R6 460 of the network.” *¶ 1, page 24 of the Specification.* From this clear description in the Specification, there is no doubt that Claim 15, as written, is fully, completely and unambiguously supported under 35 U.S.C. §112. The Examiner’s §112 rejection

is deemed to be overcome by this citation to the specification, and the Applicant requests Claims 15-20 be allowed, especially in view of the amendments to these claims that were made to overcome the informalities identified in the Examiner's objections.

## V. CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application because the Examiner's rejections and objections are believed to have been overcome by the present Response. Pending Claims 1-3 and 5-20 are allowable for the above-identified reasons. It is believed that no additional fees are necessary for this filing. If additional fees are required for filing this response, then the appropriate fees should be deducted from D. Scott Hemingway's Deposit Account No. 501,270.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Scott Hemingway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D." being small and the last name "Hemingway" being larger and more prominent.

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